

See you at the A&P Show!

The Council is inviting visitors to this weekend's Ashburton A&P Show to learn more about biodiversity and take home a free kānuka seedling for their garden.

The Council marquee will be filled with interesting information about restoration planting and controlling predators with good trapping.

Community and Open Spaces Group Manager Toni Durham said the native plant seedlings were a popular giveaway at the show in 2023.

"We're bringing them back because they were a great conversation starter about biodiversity and what people can plant on their rural properties or in their town gardens to provide better habitat for the birds and the bees.

"Thanks to the team from the Department of Conservation, we'll also have examples of the sorts of traps that are well suited to our area and the types of predators we have, and our Council biodiversity advisor will be on hand to answer questions and provide practical advice."

Eco Educate will be sharing Council's show site, offering recycling and waste minimisation education.

The event also provides attendees the chance to meet their new councillors, elected during the recent local elections, and hear about progress on the new green bin kerbside collection service that starts in September next year.

"About 12,000 green bins have already been ordered for this new service and there'll be lots of education for the public next year about what should and shouldn't



Join us at the Ashburton A&P Show for a conversation about restoration planting and pest control, and leave with a kānuka seedling for your garden.

go those bins," Mrs Durham said.

"Our community expressed strong support for this service, so we're looking forward to the rollout."

Council staff will be on hand to record any service requests received over the two days of the show and promote the online service request tool Snap Send Solve.

THIS FRIDAY & SATURDAY

Visit Council at
**THE ASHBURTON
A&P SHOW!**

GRAB A FREE KĀNUKA SEEDLING*

When you chat to us about biodiversity planting and pest trapping.

**While stocks last.*

CE Hamish Riach

We're now recruiting for our reserve and hall boards

With our newly-elected Mayor and Councillors sworn in this week and ready for the regular business of Council, the spotlight now shifts to another group of community representatives.

The new triennium (the new council's term of office) also signals a new three-year term for the hard-working, community-minded volunteers who sit on the district's hall boards, reserve boards and domain boards.

You'll see these boards currently advertising their triennial meetings and looking for new members - if you are a person who likes to get things done for their community, then this might be for you.

The hall, reserve and domain boards work with Council on projects big and small; they look after reserves where sport is played and halls where families celebrate their most special occasions, and they do it because they are passionate about their patch.

Most board members have a range of practical skills they bring to the role, or know how to tap into a network of community helpers with the talent needed for a particular project!

Council looks after 18 reserve and hall boards in total, and each has its own chairperson; the boards all have access to a Council officer dedicated to helping them be as effective as they can.

Council established the special support

staff role several years ago and it has proven a success - boards have help to set their budgets and workstreams, and a point of contact within Council.

Boards plan big work, like exterior painting or a new roof, and small work, which they often do themselves. They are resourceful and knowledgeable, and proud of their community, and in return, the assets they help look after draw people to their area, to visit or live.

The triennial meetings are being advertised as dates and times are confirmed, with the Tinwald Memorial Hall up first on 5 November. Please check the notice on page two of this Council newsletter to see meetings in other areas.



SHORT AND SWEET

BOOK LAUNCH

Author Paul Elliott will be launching his new book, *Between Two Worlds*, at the Ashburton Library on **Thursday 6 November**. You can hear Paul speak about the book and his writing journey in the Event Space, from 6.30pm. *Between Two Worlds: A New Zealander's True Story of Love and Chaos in Kathmandu*, is the result of Paul's journey to Nepal, and he reflects on the country's indomitable spirit. Paul is based in Canterbury.

DIGI COACHES BACK

Need help with your phone, tablet, laptop, or other digital devices? Our friendly Digi Coaches at the library are here to assist! Whether it's setting up an app, troubleshooting a tech issue, or learning something new, come in and sit down with them. Available Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday, 1pm-3pm at the library. Outside of these times you are welcome to drop in with your device and library staff will do what they can to assist you.

GARDENING HOUR

Connecting Mid Canterbury and the Ashburton Library are hosting another gardening conversation hour in the Ashburton Lakes Room at the library on Wednesday 5 November, at 1.30pm. These chats are held on the first and third Wednesday of each month. Come along and share tips, ask questions and talk plants and produce. Suitable for novice gardeners and experts!

FREE TRAINING

Free training is being offered to local people who serve on community groups, sports clubs and other not-for-profit groups. The 3.5 hour workshops are being run at Methven and Ashburton on 4 November, and again in the Ashburton Library on 17 November. The workshops are being provided by LEAD Centre for Not-for-Profit Governance and Leadership, and funded by Community Trust Mid & South Canterbury. The workshops are also a chance to connect with others in a similar space and build a practical toolkit. See the library's event page for registration details.

UV water plant upgrades roll on

Installation of new UV disinfection equipment at the Bridge Street drinking water treatment plant has been completed - it is one of the final upgrades in a \$10 million project spanning six Council drinking water supplies.

The project involved installing UV equipment at drinking water supplies for Hinds, Mayfield, Rakaia, Chertsey, Dromore and Ashburton, as required by national drinking water rules. The Mt Somers and Methven water plants already have UV equipment.

Bridge Street is one of four treatment plants on the Ashburton supply and follows Argyle Park and Tinwald to now have UV in place. Work is about to start at the Ashburton Domain.

The domain's water treatment plant is on the corner of West Street/SH1 and Walnut Avenue. A work zone has already been fenced off, but access to the public toilets nearby remains.



Group Manager of Infrastructure Neil McCann said the upgrades are critical for ensuring Council drinking water supplies meet 100 per cent compliance with the new drinking water assurance rules.

“The rules are about ensuring our drinking water is the safest it can be, and we have a head start in that because most of our water sources are deep wells. The rules are also about monitoring in real time, and as the UV equipment has been installed, we’ve also updated electrical components

so the treatment plants can be constantly remotely monitored and controlled.

“It’s quite sophisticated technology and if there are unexpected readings, the plants can automatically shut themselves down.”

Mr McCann said the upcoming work at the domain treatment plant has potential to cause temporary low water pressure on the Ashburton supply.

“We’ll be keeping an eye on the operations of all four treatment plants on the Ashburton scheme, but from time to time water pressure may not be what residents are used to.”

The work is scheduled to be completed ahead of Christmas.

A new building at Dromore for the UV equipment has just started and is also expected to be completed by Christmas.

The new treatment plant under construction at Chertsey should be operational by November.

ROADING NOTICES

Grove Street - Closed at Wilkins Street intersection while new watermain is installed by Rooney Earthmoving. Road closures and detours expected until 31 October. Resident access remains.

Trevors Road – Closed between Ealing Montalto Road and Withells Road from 15 October to 14 November while HEB carries out road maintenance on behalf of Council. Access for resident remains.

Talbot Place and Farquhar Place – Closed until 3 November while Rooney Earthmoving carries out water main installation and maintenance upgrades on behalf of Council. Access for residents to be maintained.

Chalmers Avenue - closed in places between Dobson Street and Robilliard Park until 28 November while new water pipes are installed.

Pole Road - Closed between SH77 and Springfield Road East, until Monday 10 November for road maintenance.

Lilley Place and Macphail Place - Closed from Monday 27 October to Friday 14 November while new water pipes are installed.

Thompsons Track – Closed between Winchmore Lauriston Road and Pole Road, and Braemar Lauriston Road at Thompsons Track intersection from 3 November to 19 December, so Fulton Hogan can do heavy road maintenance on behalf of Council. Detours in place. Resident access remains.

Saunders Road – Closed between Pages Road and Galbraith Street from 10 November to 24 November while new wastewater pipes are installed by Tru-Line Civil on behalf of council. Resident access remains. Stage 2 of this work involves the closure of Saunders Road from Creek Road to Galbraith Street intersection, from 25 November to 12 December.

Full details of local road closures are on our website, ashburtondc.govt.nz

Cr Wilson to be Deputy Mayor

Ashburton District’s deputy mayor will be Cr Richard Wilson.

Mayor Liz McMillan made the announcement at this week’s inaugural Council meeting, saying Cr Wilson’s experience in governance roles and work in the rural community made him a great fit for the role.

“Richard has a farming background and is well respected in the rural community, and we’ll make an excellent team representing and advocating for this district.”

Cr Wilson said it was an honour to be Deputy Mayor. “Mayor McMillan and I complement each other well and we have different interests, which helps us to understand and serve our whole community better.”

He said he would continue to advocate for open debate and decisions, especially as Council embedded its inhouse water



services business unit. “We need to make good governance decisions around that for the community.”

Cr Wilson has been farming for 35 years, after attending Lincoln University and

working for the Rural Bank. He has also been chair of the RDR Management Ltd, which governs the operation of the Rangitata Diversion Race (RDR).

“There have been many changes in both farming and water landscapes over the years, and both are important to Mid Canterbury. Understanding people’s goals and managing expectations are skills I’ve learned along the way.

“I know as Deputy Mayor that I have new responsibilities, but I’m still aiming to keep a few spots on the tractor roster.”

Mayor McMillan said Cr Wilson provided essential balance in the leadership of Council.

“Overall, we have a really good mixture of experienced and new councillors, and I can see the whole team will have an important part to play. We’re all looking forward to getting down to business.”

TRIENNIAL MEETINGS FOR RESERVE & HALL BOARDS

The new term of Council also signals a new three-year term for the volunteers who sit on the district's hall boards, reserve boards and domain boards.

Over the next couple of months, boards will be advertising their triennial meetings and looking for new members.

- 5 November - **Tinwald Memorial Hall Board** - 7.30pm, Tinwald Memorial Hall meeting room
- 6 November - **Ruapuna Reserve Board** - 7.30pm, Ruapuna Tennis Pavilion
- 11 November - **Mt Somers Reserve Board** - 7pm, Mt Somers Memorial Hall supper room
- 18 November - **Pendarves Reserve Board** - 7.30pm, Pendarves Fire Station
- 20 November - **Hinds Reserve Board** - 7.30, Hinds Fire Station meeting room
- 24 November - **Tinwald Reserve Board** - 7pm, Tinwald Memorial Hall meeting room
- 27 November - **Mayfield Reserve Board** - 7pm, Mayfield Memorial Hall supper room



ROAD CLOSURE

Ashburton District Council gives public notice of temporary road closures to enable the holding of the following community event:

MISSION MT SOMERS

Road to be closed:

- **The whole length of Symes Road**
- Period of closure: **From 6am to 4.30pm on Saturday 1 November 2025**

It will be an offence under the Transport (Vehicular Traffic Road Closure) Regulations 1965 for any person otherwise than under authority of an authorised permit to use the roads for ordinary vehicular traffic during the period of closure.

NEIL McCANN
Group Manager Infrastructure

COUNCIL OFFICE

2 Baring Square East
Mon, Tue, Wed & Fri 8.30am-5pm
Thursday 9am-5pm

ASHBURTON LIBRARY

2 Baring Square East, Ashburton 7700
Mon & Fri 8.30am-6pm, Tue-Thu 8.30am-8pm
Sat & Sun 10am-4pm

EA NETWORKS CENTRE

20 River Terrace
Mon - Fri 5.45am-9pm (pools 8pm Mon & Tue, 7pm Wed-Fri; gym 8pm). Sat & Sun 7am-7pm (pools 6pm, gym 6pm)

ASHBURTON ART GALLERY & MUSEUM

327 West Street
10am-4pm daily (late night Wed)